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serves a useful purpose, especially by enabling teachers of biology to place before their students a series of illustrations whose fidelity is beyond question, and which may serve as a basis for either elementary or advanced work in this direction.

The photographs have been taken from the eggs of the sea-urchin, *Toxopneustes variegatus* Ag. (a classical object for the study of these phenomena), taken as a type. The eggs having been cut into extremely thin sections $\frac{1}{1000}$ to $\frac{1}{2000}$ inch.) were stained in iron-hæmatoxylin, and projected by means of the Zeiss apochromatic oil-immersion objective, 2 mm. focus, at an enlargement varying from 950 to 1000 diameters. They have been reproduced *absolutely without retouching* or modification of any kind.

Following is a partial list of the points clearly shown in the present series:—The ovarian egg, with germinal vesicle, germinal spot and chromatin-network; the polar amphiaster with the "Vierergruppen" or quadruple chromosome-groups; the unfertilized egg, after extrusion of the polar bodies; entrance of the spermatozoon, the entrance-cone; rotation of the sperm-head, origin of the sperm-aster from the middle-piece, growth of the astral rays; conjugation of the germ-nuclei, extension and division of the sperm-aster; formation of the cleavage-nucleus; the attraction-spheres in the resting-cell; formation of the cleavage-amphiaster, origin of the spindle-fibres and chromosomes; division of the chromosomes, separation of the daughter-chromosomes; structure and growth of the astrosphere; degeneration of the spindle; formation of the "Zwischenkörper;" origin of the chromatic vesicles from the chromosomes; reconstruction of the daughter-nuclei; cleavage of the ovum; the two-celled stage at several periods showing division of the archoplasm-mass, "attraction-spheres" in the resting-cell, formation of the second cleavage-amphiasters.

The explanatory text comprises a simple introductory account of the general history of the subject (for the use of students and general readers), with a number of figures, mostly original, but a few copied from Boveri. In the descriptive part a more critical description of the photographs is given, with drawings illustrating every stage shown.

The atlas will be of great utility to embryologists and biologists in general, and the execution will satisfy the student, as worthily illustrating the text. The reputation of the author guarantees the accuracy of the work.

A Delightful Book on Butterflies.⁵—In these excursions into

⁵ Frail Children of the Air. By Samuel Hubbard Scudder. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, 1895. Price \$1.50.

the world of butterflies, Dr. Scudder has treated of some of the most fascinating phases of biological science in an extremely interesting manner. The comparatively few who had read these essays as they originally appeared in the author's classic *Butterflies of New England*—a work so expensive that it could only be accessible to a limited number of readers—will rejoice that they are now available to every seeker after biological knowledge. In the thirty-one chapters which the book contains there are discussions of such subjects as these: *Butterflies in Disguise*; a *Study of Mimicry*; *Deceptive Devices Among Caterpillars*; *Butterflies as Botanists*; *Color-relations of Chrysalids to their Surroundings*; *Butterfly Sounds*; *Nests made by Caterpillars*; *The Eggs of Butterflies*; *The Oldest Butterfly Inhabitants of New England*; *The Procession of the Seasons*; *Lethargy of Caterpillars*; *Fossil Butterflies*. Each of these subjects is discussed with the fullness of knowledge and excellence of style which characterize the author's writings. The book is certain of a hearty welcome from lovers of nature-knowledge.—CLARENCE M. WEED.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

ABBOTT, W. L.—Notes on the Natural History of Aldabra, Assumption and Glorioso Islands, Indian Ocean. Extr. Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus., XVI, 1894. From the Smithsonian Institution.

ALLEN, J. A.—On the Species of the Genus *Reithrodontomys*. Extr. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1895. From the author.

BAILEY, V.—The Pocket Gophers of the United States. Bull. No. 5, U. S. Dept. Agric. Washington, 1895. From the Dept.

BAIN, H. F.—Preglacial Elevation of Iowa. Extr. Proceeds. Iowa Acad. Sci., Vol. II, 1894. From the author.

BALCH, T. W.—Some facts about Alsace and Lorraine. Extr. Bull. Geog. Club of Philada. March, 1895. From the Club.

BARBAZON DU BOCAGE, J. V.—Sur un Batracien nouveau dur Fernando Po. Extr. Jorn. Sci. Math., Phys. e Nat. (2) XII, 1895. From the author.

BEAN, B. A.—Descriptions of two new Flounders, *Gastropsetta frontalis* and *Cyclopsetta chittendenii*. Extr. Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus., Vol. XVII, 1895. From the author.

BEAN, T. H.—Description of a new species of Fish, *Bleekeria gilthi*. Extr. Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus., Vol. XVII, 1895.

—Description of a new species of Rockfish *Sebasthiichthys brevispinis*, from Alaska. Extr. Proceeds. U. S. Natl. Mus., Vol. XVII. From the author.